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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-sixth session

Draft report

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009

(Items 3 (b) and (c))

Programme 7
Economic and social affairs

1. At its 11th meeting, on 23 August 2006, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/61/6 (Prog. 7)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Strong support was expressed for the programme and its objectives and subprogrammes. The view was expressed that the narratives were well drafted and correctly reflected intensified focus on implementing the United Nations development agenda, that is, internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as reaffirmed at the 2005 World Summit and set out in the Millennium Declaration, Monterrey Consensus and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. In this regard, the importance of full implementation of General Assembly resolution 60/265 and of greater engagement of all development cooperation partners was stressed. The role that the Department can play in promoting South-South cooperation was also emphasized.

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4. The particular focus of the programme on facilitating initiatives to eradicate poverty and hunger and to promote human and social development, with emphasis on gender, vulnerable groups and HIV/AIDS, was noted with appreciation.

5. The view was expressed that some of the indicators of achievement of the programme could be improved, while the scope of some expected accomplishments could be expanded. The view was also expressed that some objectives and accomplishments were too general and some were not logically coordinated and complementary. The view was further expressed that the indicators of achievement for some subprogrammes should be both quantitative and qualitative.

6. Support was expressed for strengthening the role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to advance the overall reform of the United Nations and the related activities under subprogramme 1. The view was expressed that the role of the Economic and Social Council should be strengthened through improved linkages between normative and operational work. The importance of the Council's role in coordinating the United Nations work on post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding in cooperation with the Peacebuilding Commission was emphasized.

7. The view was expressed that the focus of indicator of achievement (a) (i) under subprogramme 1 on the increased number of resolutions reflecting consensus on major development issues should be fully honoured. The need to enhance the frequency of the Economic and Social Council meetings on the efficiency and coordination of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, including in the context of the review of operational activities, was emphasized. The view was further expressed that the process currently under way to negotiate the strengthening of the Council, which could possibly have an effect on this subprogramme, should be borne in mind.

8. It was observed that under subprogramme 2 the importance of strengthening national capacities through strengthened education on gender should be highlighted. It was also noted that reference to the agreed conclusions of the International Conference on Population and Development should be added to the narrative of subprogramme 2.

9. The view was expressed that under subprogramme 3 more emphasis should be placed on policy analysis and on support for vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, older persons and youth.

10. Under subprogramme 4, efforts to enhance work for sustainable development in accordance with the United Nations development agenda, including the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, were welcomed. The importance of national capacity-building, technology transfer and financing for sustainable development under the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation was emphasized. The view was also expressed that the provision of information on partnerships, with specific focus on the actual benefits to Member States, remained an important aspect of subprogramme 4.

11. Support was expressed for the importance of the role of subprogramme 5 in improving the national capacity of developing countries in statistics and its direct impact for achieving the internationally agreed development goals and implementing national development strategies.

12. The view was expressed that more emphasis should be placed on population issues and trends in the area of HIV/AIDS under subprogramme 6. It was also noted that the operational component of the strategy should be strengthened.

13. It was observed that issues related to decentralized government and the increased role of civil society in governance were not adequately addressed under subprogramme 8.

14. The view was expressed that effective global policies were yet to be developed under subprogramme 9. It was emphasized that the necessity of reversing forest degradation and decline should be adequately reflected in subprogramme 9. It was also noted that the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests should become legally binding.

15. The objective of promoting and supporting sustained follow-up to the agreements and commitments reached at the International Conference on Financing for Development was particularly welcomed. The importance of predictable financing for development and effective planning on a secure and continued basis was emphasized. It was also observed that specific measures to encourage the involvement of international, regional, subregional and national institutions in implementing the Monterrey Consensus should be reflected in the subprogramme narrative. The view was also expressed that the programme should give more attention to new mechanisms for mobilizing funds for financing development.

Conclusions and recommendations

16. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 7.1

In the first sentence, after the words "is to promote", insert the words "and support international cooperation in the pursuit of"; after the word "growth", insert the words "hunger and".

Paragraph 7.4

In the second sentence, after the words "United Nations entities dealing" delete the words "at the country level".

Paragraph 7.7

At the end of the paragraph, insert the sentence "Efforts will be made to promote and develop new methods and mechanisms of better knowledge, through the establishment of new knowledge communities through the Intranet."

Subprogramme 2
Gender issues and advancement of women

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (a) (ii), after the word "proportion", insert the words "as appropriate".

Subprogramme 3
Social policy and development

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (a) (ii), before the words "social development issues", insert the words "not fully addressed".

Paragraph 7.10

In the first sentence of subparagraph (a), delete the words "the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities".

After subparagraph (a), insert new subparagraph (b), reading: "(b) Facilitating the finalization, adoption and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities"; redesignate the remaining subparagraphs of paragraph 7.10 accordingly.

Subprogramme 4
Sustainable development

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (a), replace the word "including" with the words "as well as an increased level of satisfaction of Member States with".

Paragraph 7.11

At the end of the subparagraph (a), add the words "and international cooperation".

Subprogramme 8
Public administration and development agenda

Objective of the Organization

Replace the existing text with the following:

"Objective of the Organization: to promote efficient, accountable, participatory and transparent public administration for the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences".

Expected accomplishments

In expected accomplishment (a), replace the words "the cross-cutting issues of public sector reform" with the words "issues related to public administration".

In expected accomplishment (b), replace the words "public sector reform" with the words "public administration".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (a), delete the words "on the cross-cutting issues".

17. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly allocate subprogramme 1 of programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2008-2009 to the Second Committee for its review and action under the agenda item entitled "Programme planning".**

18. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the proposed revisions to programme 7 of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2006-2007 (A/61/125).**